

Senate Resolution 50

By: Senators Jackson of the 24th, Williams of the 19th, Rogers of the 21st, Cowser of the 46th, Goggans of the 7th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 To create the Georgia Criminal Justice Study Commission; to provide for the membership,
2 duties, and operation of the commission; to provide for related matters; and for other
3 purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia faces a number of critical issues relating to the criminal
5 justice system, including but by no means limited to disparate treatment of similar offenses
6 in different areas of the state; and

7 WHEREAS, nothing is more important to protecting the fabric of society than efficient and
8 appropriate enforcement of the criminal laws; and

9 WHEREAS, there exists a need for a thorough examination of our current system and the
10 methodical development of improvement initiatives.

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
12 GEORGIA that there is created the Georgia Criminal Justice Study Commission to be
13 composed of 21 members, five members to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
14 Representatives, five members to be appointed by the President of the Senate, five members
15 to be appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and six members to be appointed
16 by the Governor. The Governor shall designate one of his appointees to serve as chair of the
17 commission. The commission shall meet at the call of the chair. In making appointments
18 to the commission, the appointing officers are urged to ensure appropriate representation
19 from the public at large as well as all professions and fields involved in or knowledgeable
20 about the criminal justice system, including but not limited to the judiciary, prosecutors, the
21 defense bar, law enforcement, and corrections.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall undertake a study of the issues
23 described above and recommend any actions or legislation which the commission deems
24 necessary or appropriate. The commission may conduct such meetings and hearings at such

25 places and at such times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully
26 and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes
27 of this resolution. The members of the commission, including any legislative members, shall
28 serve without compensation or expense reimbursement. The commission shall make a report
29 of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, on or before
30 January 1, 2012. The commission shall stand abolished on June 30, 2012, unless extended
31 by subsequent resolution of the General Assembly.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all officers and agencies of the three branches of state
33 government are directed to provide all appropriate information and assistance as requested
34 by the commission. The commission may retain expert assistance as may be necessary or
35 appropriate for its purposes, provided that any expenditure for such purposes must have the
36 prior approval of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of
37 Representatives.